



THE BIG SPENDER

J.T.C.

YEAHOO!
I DID IT!

That's \$250,000!
WHAT LUCK!

Hey, man. Let's
watch that dude!

Man, is he hot!
He made his point!

Do you
want cash
or a draft?

Lay it
on me in cold
cash, baby!


It may not
be safe.

I'm a big boy.
I can take care
of myself.

ON HIS WAY HOME

HEY, YOU IDIOTS!
You cut me off!



A black and white comic panel showing two men in light-colored jackets standing over a body lying on a stretcher. The man on the left is looking at the body, while the man on the right is looking towards the viewer. The scene is dark with some plants in the foreground.

Is he
dead?

Who cares?
I got it,
man... all
250 grand!

Let's get
out of here!

A black and white comic panel showing a hospital room. A man in a white lab coat and glasses stands by a bed where a patient is lying. A woman in a nurse's uniform stands with her back to the viewer, looking at the patient. Medical equipment is visible in the background.

ONE WEEK LATER

He's going to
live after all!

3 MONTHS LATER

I'm sorry, Mr. Madison, you don't qualify for food stamps.

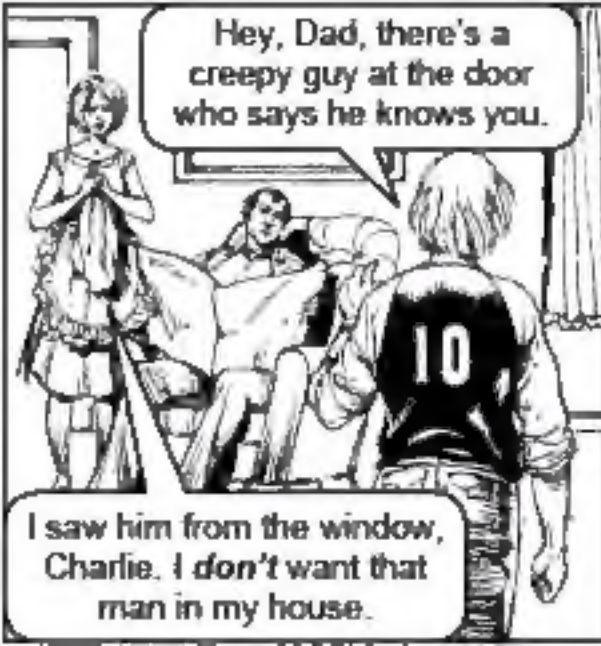
What am I gonna do?

Sorry, that's your problem.
NEXT!

I had it all... fancy cars, women and money! But first I win a fortune, then I'm almost *killed*... and the hospital bill wiped me out.

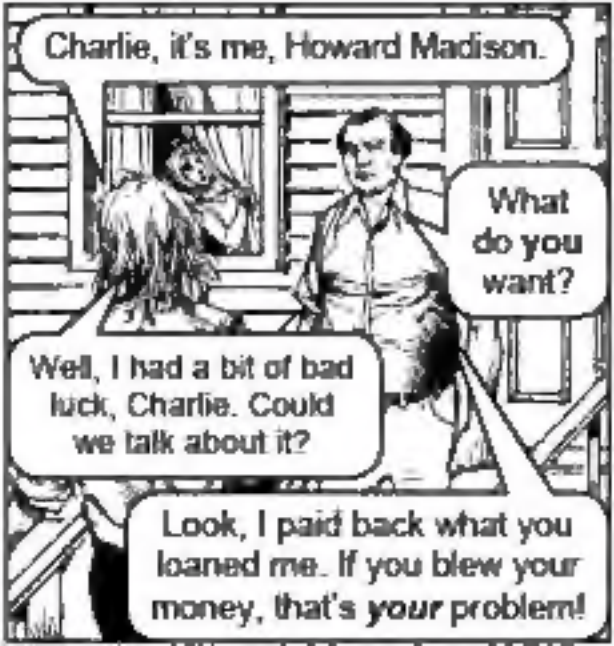
What am I gonna do?

Maybe my old buddy, Charlie, will help me out. SURE! Good old Charlie. I could *always* count on him!



Hey, Dad, there's a creepy guy at the door who says he knows you.

I saw him from the window, Charlie. I don't want that man in my house.



Charlie, it's me, Howard Madison.

What do you want?

Well, I had a bit of bad luck, Charlie. Could we talk about it?

Look, I paid back what you loaned me. If you blew your money, that's your problem!

Try a skid row mission, you BUM.
And don't come back here any more.
You're a loser.

Jerk!
After all I did for that guy!



"The poor is hated even of his
own neighbor..." Prov. 14:20

Maybe I can
get a bed
and some
food in here?

Only if you
can (hic)
sit through
the sermon,
pilgrim!



I swore I'd never set foot
in another church... and
here I am, *stuck!*

zzz



Our text is Luke,
Chapter 15:11-32.

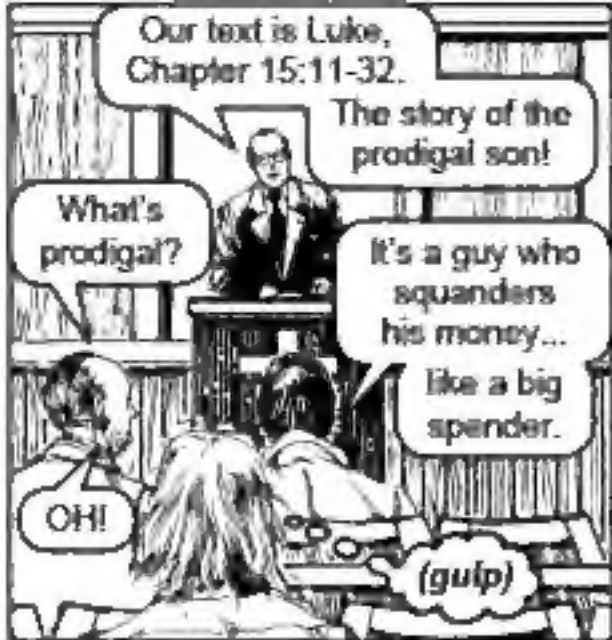
The story of the
prodigal son!

What's
prodigal?

It's a guy who
squanders
his money...
like a big
spender.

OH!

(gulp)



Jesus told a short story to a crowd of poor folks and some rich, proud, and arrogant religious leaders who hated Him.

JESUS SAID

"A certain man
had two sons...
the younger...
said to his father."


"Father, give me the portion of
the goods that falleth to me."

The boy was asking for his
inheritance.

But he asked
for it **before** his
father had died...
which was wrong!

His father gave
him what he
wanted anyway.
He loved his son.

"And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, (he packed up all that belonged to him) and took his journey into a far country..." Luke 15:13




Good-bye,
my son.

Good-bye.

I will pray
for you always.

His godly father's heart was broken
to see his son leave him this way.



I've never seen anything
so wonderful!

Come,
stay here,
young man!

Come in, Master. The world awaits
you with all of its marvellous
mysteries: exotic foods, dancing
women, magnificent music.

And the Bible says
and there (he)
wasted his substance
with riotous living
He lived it up and
spent all his money
chasing the winds

Darling will
you buy me
this too?

Of course
Haw Haw (hic)

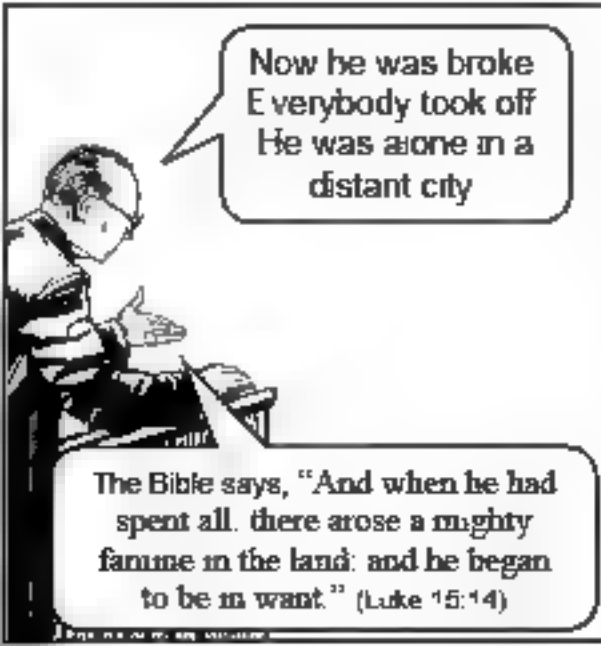
Ahh my friend
could you loan
me a little more
money? You are
such a great man!

Here's to
our rich new
friend!

The fool is
spending his
money like
it's water
He'll be
broke
soon

Excuse me Master your bill is due

and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. Prov 1:32



Now he was broke
Everybody took off
He was alone in a
distant city

The Bible says, "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in the land: and he began to be in want." (Luke 15:14)

" he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country "

So, you want a job, eh? All right I own pigs. and you can feed them!

Pigs?

Do you want the job or not?

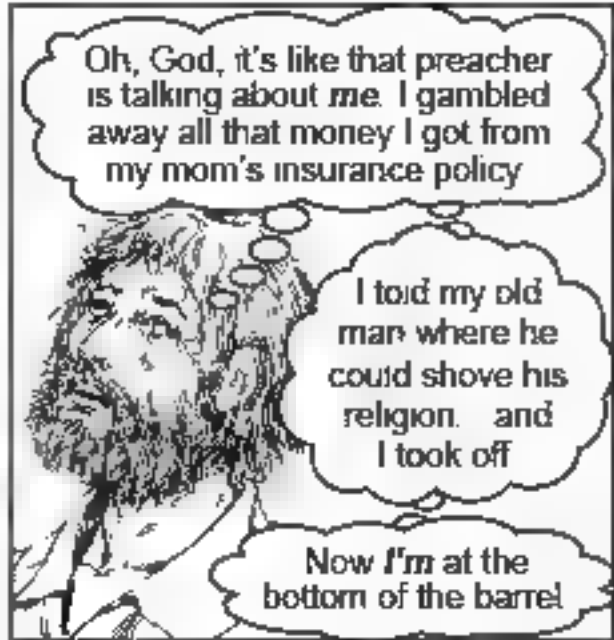
Uh. yes, Sir

The young man was a Jew His father had taught him the law of Moses * He hated pigs. *(Lev 11 7,8)



Everyone listening to Jesus tell this story was horrified. A pig was an *abomination* to them.

And so this young Jewish gentleman, who was once rich and powerful, was now at the bottom of the barrel in life — serving pigs.



Oh, God, it's like that preacher is talking about *me*. I gambled away all that money I got from my mom's insurance policy

I told my old man where he could shove his religion, and I took off

Now I'm at the bottom of the barrel

And the Bible says " he would fain (gladly) have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat "



" and no man gave unto him "

"*And when he came to himself* " that means he came to his senses, he woke up from his delusional thinking.

MISSION

It's like lost mankind. Man is insane in his rebellion against God.

When this young man came to himself he said

"How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!"



CHOMP

CHUNK

He decided to go back to his father and say, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee."

He was going to ask his dad to make him a hired servant!

He was broken.



He felt he wasn't worthy to be called his son anymore.

And so he started his long trip home.

Back home, the father would walk the floor at night, praying for his son.

God, please
bring him back
He's so young!

He thinks
he's so smart
Don't let the
devil get him.


Oh, Lord, you know how
reckless he is, and how
much trouble he can get into

Aren't you coming
to bed? You're worrying
yourself to death.

I'll come to bed
later I'll pray a
little longer

Oh, God,
bring him home


Would his father forgive him? He'd spent a fortune ruined his good name. He was in rags and smelly. What would he say to his dad?



If his father turned him away it would be the end. His stomach was in knots.

He didn't know the great love his father had for him.

The Bible says ... But when he was yet a great way off his father saw him and had compassion.



I see something out there. It's fallen down on the road twice.

It's a man! It's got to be my son.

It's my son. I know it is. O God, let it be him!

His father ran to him, fell on his
neck and kissed him

My son
My son

I heard and!

You've
called
me!

JOB
2:9

The boy said: Father, I have sinned
against heaven, and in thy sight, and am
no more worthy to be called thy son.

And his father ordered that bread
and wine should be set before him

my son was
dead, and in three
years he was lost
and is found.

He ordered that bread and wine
should be set before him. It was
time for a celebration.

He went to his father like a beggar and his father received him like a prince

When you go to your heavenly father as a beggar, he will receive you as a prince

Jesus said, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10)

But if you come to God acting like a prince, He'll turn you away like a beggar

God loves you much more than that father in the story. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, from heaven to die on the cross for you.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



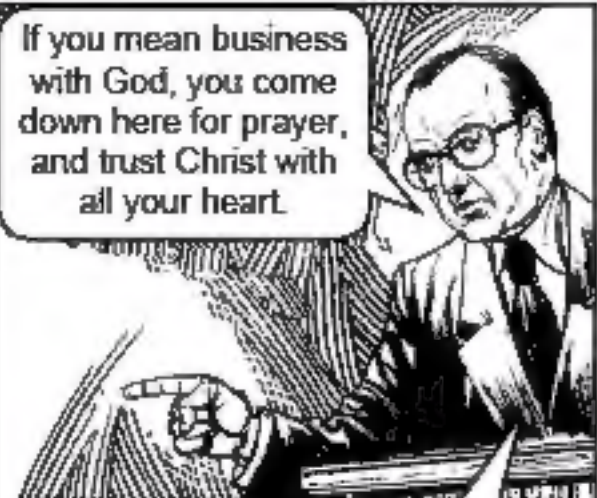
That precious blood he shed was to wash away your sins so you could get into heaven. It was a terrible price. **THIS IS GOD'S LOVE GIFT TO YOU.**

Hunger drove that boy home. But let me tell you, friend, when you get hungry for *God*... for something real...



There aren't enough devils in *hell* to keep you from getting home if you mean business!

If you mean business with God, you come down here for prayer, and trust Christ with all your heart.



Everything else is chasing the winds. God wants you to come home to him right now, come on.

Oh God, what a mess I am! I don't want to go to hell. I want to be with You in heaven. Save me, Lord.

SOB


Come into my heart, Lord Jesus. I want You as my Saviour. Thank you, God. Oh, thank you!

Dad? It's me. I got saved, Dad... Right!.... My life is changed.

You love me? (sob) I love you, too.


You'll send me airline tickets? To come home?

I've wanted to come home, Dad, but I didn't think you'd want to see me.



Dad, I hated you. I insulted you and cursed you. If you did that to me, I wouldn't have forgiven you!

Why did you forgive me?



I had to, son. Jesus said, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses (sins), your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

SNIF

"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses (sins), neither will your (heavenly) Father forgive your trespasses (sins)."^{*†}
God bless you. I'll meet you at the airport. Thanks for coming home.

I love you, son.

^{*†}Matt. 6:14-15

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read *The Next Step*, available at www.chick.com.

